REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Response to Amendment mailed 1/23/2004. Applicant submits that the present amendment, which is responsive to the Office Action mailed September 10, 2002, is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(c).

In the Office Action mailed September 10, 2002, the abstract was objected to, claim 4 was rejected under §112, and the claims were rejected under §102 and §103.

Objection to the Abstract

The abstract was rejected to because it contained more than 150 words. Applicant has amended the abstract to be less than 150 words. Thus, Applicant submits that this objection has been overcome.

Section 112 Rejections

Claim 4 was rejected under §112 because it did not end in a period. Applicant has amended claim 4 to correct this error. Applicant has also corrected a missing semicolon in claim 6, has corrected an improper dependency in claims 14, 25 and 32, and has corrected various other minor errors.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-8, 11-18, 21-26, 29-34 and 37-38 were rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Fowlow et al. Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable over the Fowlow reference. The Fowlow reference relates to a method for visually constructing object oriented application software that is to be installed on a distributed object system. Figure 5 of the Fowlow patent illustrates a composition design environment which is evidently used for visually constructing object oriented application software. As shown in Figure 5 of Fowlow and discussed beginning at column 11 line 1:

> "The connections between parts and other parts or interfaces is made using plugs such as shown at 544, and sockets such as shown at 546. ... a socket is a representation of a service provided by an object, comprising usually an object reference that is passed by that object to another

> requesting object. A plug, conversely, is a service that an object is capable of requesting and processing. As will be known to those with skill in the object programming arts, objects communicate amongst themselves by passing and operating upon object references which communication is represented schematically by drawing connections (such as connection 536) between the plug of a first object and a socket of a second object." (See column 11 lines 1-28)

Applicant respectfully submits that the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a "graphical dataflow program" as recited in the present claims. A graphical data flow program comprises a program comprising a plurality of nodes or icons, wherein the nodes or icons are interconnected by lines, and wherein the lines represent the flow of data between the nodes. The Fowlow reference does not teach or suggest the concept of a graphical data flow program. Evidently, the connections between object icons described in the Fowlow reference represent object references that are used to request services as represented by a "socket". Thus, the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a graphical dataflow program. Further, the Fowlow reference does not teach the notion of a node in a graphical dataflow program that is configurable or operable to invoke a method of an object or get or set a property of an object.

With respect to the step of "displaying on the screen a node in the graphical dataflow program in response to user input", the Office Action cites column 3 lines 41-59 of Fowlow. This cited portion of Fowlow merely refers to linking plugs and sockets of icons that represent objects. Applicant submits that this does not teach or suggest a node in a graphical data flow program. With respect to the limitation of "wherein the node is operable to invoke a method of an object" the Office Action states "see in the location above the making of a selection action on one of the icons". Applicant has reviewed this cited portion and believes that the "selection action" refers to user input or user action of selecting an icon. This cited portion does not appear to be relevant to the concept of a node being operable to invoke a method of an object.

Similar arguments apply with respect to each of the pending independent claims that are directed to invoking methods of objects and/or getting or setting properties of objects, e.g., claims 1 - 38.

Claims 9-10, 19-20, 27-28 and 35-36 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Fowlow as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Meyer.

Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable in view of the arguments made with respect to Fowlow above. Further, Applicant notes that Meyer does not provide at least several of the missing elements from the Fowlow reference. For example, the Meyer patent is directed toward developing "a graphical control flow structure". The Meyer patent is based on the well known Grafcet/IEC 1131 standard, which is a standard for creating control flow diagrams. The Grafcet/IEC 1131 standard is not related to data flow graphical programs. Thus the Meyer reference does not teach or suggest the concept of a graphical data flow program as recited in the present claims.

New Claims

Applicant submits new claims 39-82 to more fully and completely claim Applicant's invention. Applicant submits that these new claims are allowable for at least the reasons given above with respect to claims 1-38.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-18302/JCH.

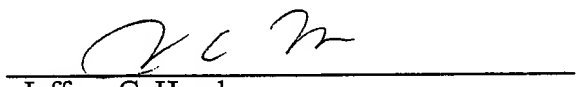
Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☒ Information Disclosure Statement

☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



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